

Exhibit A
to withdrawal
Request

DAVID A. GOTTARDO, ATTORNEY AT LAW
Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights & Other Intellectual Property Matters

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December 6, 2004

VIA CERTIFIED PRIORITY
MAIL WITH RETURN RECEIPT
No. 7004 1160 0007 2803 2980

Mr. Joseph Day, Jr.
3104 North Rutherford
Chicago, Illinois 60634

Re: Withdrawal of Attorney - U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/722,824

Dear Mr. Day:

As discussed on Thursday, December 2, 2004, because of differences between us relating to how to approach any post-allowance action in the above application, it was agreed that I withdraw from your case. I have thus enclosed a copy of the Withdrawal Request that I submitted to the U.S. Patent Office.

Per your request, I have also enclosed your application file and Notice of Allowance with this letter. As you already know, the Patent Office requires payment of the issue and publication fees (\$985.00) and/or the initiation of other action to occur by the three month deadline of 01/31/2005. Failure to meet the deadline will result in an abandonment of your application. You thus have approximately eight weeks from the date of this letter to pay the fees and/or take other action.

If you decide to pay the issue/publication fees *without* taking other action (against my advice and recommendation), you will need to complete two Patent Office forms (enclosed with the Notice of Allowance attached to this letter), and submit both to the Patent Office with your payment. The two forms are as follows:

- 1) form PTOL-85 FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL; and
- 2) form PTO/SB/122 CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS.

You can obtain assistance in completing and submitting these forms by calling the Inventor's Assistance Center of the Patent Office at (800) 786-9199 or (703) 308-4357. As I have requested withdrawal from your case with the Patent Office, please do not list my name within the location of the Fees Transmittal form asking for the identification of attorney names to be printed on the front page of the issued patent.

Mr. Joseph Day
Re: Withdrawal of Attorney

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If you decide to take other action with regard to your allowed application, you must take such action before or with the payment of the issue/publication fees and by the 01/31/2005 deadline. You may contact the Inventor's Assistance Center at the above-recited telephone numbers regarding the proper procedures for taking such action. I highly recommended that you consult with new patent counsel in addition to contacting the Inventor's Assistance Center.

You may receive assistance in locating new patent counsel by calling the Chicago Bar Association at (312) 554-2001, the Illinois State Bar Association at (217) 525-5297, or the American Bar Association at (312) 988-5000.

As noted within the Notice of Allowance, any further inquiry concerning your patent application may be directed to the application's Examiner, Marguerite J. McMahon at (703) 308-1956, or the Examiner's Supervisor, Yuen Henry at (703) 308-1946.

I wish you success in your endeavors.

Very truly yours,

DAVID A. GOTTARDO, ATTORNEY AT LAW

By: 
David A. Gottardo

Encls.